THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The details of outstanding credit of all commercial banks in Uttar Pradesh under priority sector for the last three years are given below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

| As on the last Friday of | Total Priority sector | Of which to : | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Agriculture | Small Scale Industry | Setting up of Industrial Estate | Total Advances to other priority sector |
| March 1998 | 865459 | 305602 | 341231 | 55 | 210853 |
| March 1999 | 961993 | 346186 | 370997 | 518 | 236193 |
| March 2000 | 1388707 | 404845 | 398180 | 83 | 297809 |

(b) No. Sir.

(c) A number of measures such as One Time Settlement, recovery drives, DRT cases etc. have been taken by the banks.

(d) Data as available from the convenor bank of Uttar Pradesh reveal that 16.95 per cent of the advances are blocked in Non-Performing Assets in December 1999, 14.30 per cent in March 2001 and 14.03 per cent in June 2001.

**Liaison officers for SC/ST/OBC**

2340. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a )whether some of the Department/Sub-ordinate and Attached Offices, Public Sector and Autonomous Organisations/Corporations under the Ministry of Finance are not nominating Liaison Officers for SC/ST and OBC as required under MHA OM No. 16/17/67-Estt. (c) dated the 10th April, 1968 (DoPT OM No. 36022/5/76 dated the 27th May, 1976) for ensuring proper compliance of Government instructions in the matters of reservations for SC/ST and OBC;

(b) if so, the names of such Offices/Organisations; and

(c) the names of Organisations which function as Administrative Units under this Ministry and the Liaison Officers nominated as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Shortage of small coins and currency notes**

2341. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that small coins and currency notes are not available in many parts of the country;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this shortage; and

(c) what steps are being taken to improve the availability of coins and currency notes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a)There are reports about shortage of coins in some parts of the country. However, there is no shortage of Bank notes in the denomination of Rs. 10/- and above. Printing of Bank notes of Rs. 5 denomination has also been resumed during the current year for meeting the demand of smaller denomination notes.

(b) There has been a significant increase in the demand for coins during recent years. As against a demand of 6500 million pieces (MPCs) of coins during 2001-2002, the four Indian Government Mints at Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Noida have an aggregate capacity to produce 3700 MPCs of coins per year, thereby resulting in shortages.

(c) The Government has taken a number of steps to address the problem of shortage of coins, which *inter-alia* include the following :—

(i) The Indian Government Mints at Mumbai, Kolkata and Hyderabad have been modernised.

(ii) The bank note of Rs. 5 denomination has been reintroduced during the current year to meet the shortage of Rs. 5 coins.

(iii) The coins in denomination of Re. 1, Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 are also being imported to meet the gap between demand and supply of coins in the country.